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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/669,365	09/25/2003	R. Douglas Cassel	10071-036-999	3378

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EXAMINER

KIM, VICKIE Y

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1618

DATE MAILED: 03/28/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/669,365	CASSEL, R. DOUGLAS	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Vickie Kim	1618	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-25 are presented for examination

Status of Application

1. Acknowledgement is made of Terminal Disclaimer filed 12/15/05. Upon entering the TD, the Double Patenting rejection is withdrawn hereinafter.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 12/15/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Kelly(102 Rejection)

3. Applicant's argument that Kelly fails to teach the claimed elements such as exterior surface of the wound(i.e. the surgically-closed wound), see remark section at page 3, second paragraph, In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., **the surgically-closed wound**) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). The claims require administering topical local anesthetic adjacent to an exterior surface of the wound.

Kelly teaches surgically closed wound via laparoscopy(as required by claims 1 and 3-4) and administering topical local anesthetic of bupivacaine into adjacent exterior wound via instillation of peritoneal cavity.

Thus, the claims are still embraced by the teaching of Kelly and the claims are properly maintained as rejected.

Zhang et al(103 rejection)

4. In response to applicant's argument that the examiner's conclusion of obviousness is based upon improper hindsight reasoning, it must be recognized that any judgment on obviousness is in a sense necessarily a reconstruction based upon hindsight reasoning. But so long as it takes into account only knowledge which was within the level of ordinary skill at the time the claimed invention was made, and does not include knowledge gleaned only from the applicant's disclosure, such a reconstruction is proper. See *In re McLaughlin*, 443 F.2d 1392, 170 USPQ 209 (CCPA 1971).

Zhang's teaching(i.e. a topical delivery of anesthetic agents such as a eutectic mixture of lidocaine and prilocaine to reduce the pain via skin patch formulation. Although Zhang does not specifically mentioned laparoscopy , hernioplasty, breast biopsy or excision of sub. Tumors, one would have been readily envisioned because Zhang teaches post-surgery wound(see col. 1, lines 17). Especially, at col.11, lines 32-36, most drugs that are benefited by instant invention includes anti-cancer drugs or agents for treating necrotic tissues which implies that the tumor or biopsy should be included in pain treatment of post-surgical procedure. Thus, the claims are properly included in this rejection and maintained as rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-4, 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kelly(AN assessment of the ..., 1996).

The claims are drawn to a method of ameliorating pain from a surgically closed wound(e.g. laparoscopy) using an effective amount of bupivacaine via topical application.

Kelly(1996) teaches a method of ceasing pain after laparoscopic procedure using a direct application of bupivacaine into fallopian tubes, see 1st paragraph at page 837. At page 837, 1st paragraph, it teaches direct topical application of diluted bupivacaine instilled into the pelvic peritoneal cavity before the closure of the umbilical port in the procedure.

Thus, all the critical elements are well taught by the cited reference and the claims are met.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and

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the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by, or alternatively, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhang(US 6,528,086).

Zhang (US'086, hereinafter) teaches a topical delivery of anesthesia, especially, application of a eutectic mixture of local anesthetic cream into the skin, see col. 1, lines 45-63. US'086 also teaches closed wound, see col.2, lines 19-22. It is noted that eutectic mixture consists of lidocaine and tetracaine, see col. 3, lines 31-32. US'086 also teaches prolonged delivery(see col. 9, lines 32-34) and eutectic mixture utilizing different types of local anesthetics, see col. 11, lines 56-63. Patch application is also taught by the patent as well as other dosage forms including sprays, gels, etc, see column 13, lines 20-28 and col.14, lines 65-67. US'086 further teaches effective amount (0.1-40%) of local anesthetics used in the treatment, see examples , especially table F(formulation II).

Most of elements required by the instant claims are well taught.

The variations including mixture of lidocaine and prilocaine, exclusion of penetration enhancer, application in every 18-48 hours, are considered to be minor variations where these modifications are conventional knowledge and routinely practiced in pharmaceutical field in order to determine most effective dosage forms and obtain maximum therapeutic effect, well within the skilled level of the ordinary artisan.

Thus, one would have been readily envisaged how to make such changes to accommodate the needs, or the said variations are readily apparent to skilled artisan. The claimed subject matter is not patentably distinct over the prior art of the record.

Conclusion

5. No claim is allowed.
6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vickie Kim whose telephone number is 571-272-0579. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday.

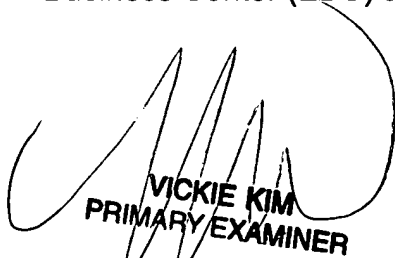
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Hartley be reached on 571-272-0616. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

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Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



VICKIE KIM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Vickie Kim
Primary Patent Examiner
March 20, 2006
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